

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Sarah Metcalfe et al.  
Application No. : 10/014,789  
Date of Filing : December 14, 2001  
Title : *SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENABLING  
COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCTS  
IN A SUPPLY CHAIN*  
Confirmation No. : 1625  
Examiner : Wu, Rutao  
TC/Art Unit : 3628  
USPTO Customer No. : 26707  
Attorney Docket No. : 125090.00015

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 16, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit the following preliminary amendment, together with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 which is submitted herewith. Applicants request reconsideration and further examination of the Application in view of the amendments and/or comments as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification: None.

Amendments to the Claims: Begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Drawings: None.

Remarks: Begin on page 11.